



Grade 6 Course Offerings

Language Arts/Literacy

After School Opportunities

- Student Council
- Peer Tutoring
- Extra help in all content areas
- Intramurals (Before School)
- Clubs
- Band and orchestra rehearsals

Instruction in Language Arts Literacy reflects a balanced approach that provides students with the learning opportunities they need in order to develop their abilities as readers, writers, listeners and speakers. Independent reading and writing are required at this level. Students will be exposed to the research process throughout the year. Skills and strategy instruction scaffolds or builds upon prior learning with each successive year of study. At this level, critical thinking is cultivated throughout the lessons.

Recommended writing units involve responses to a wide variety of interdisciplinary themes in literature and non-fiction. Students will be ex-

posed to studies in poetry, narrative, persuasive, and expository essays, as well as more informal writing opportunities like reader response, journal and notebook entries. **Writer's Workshops** are a regular part of the course. Direct instruction in language arts also includes ongoing units in vocabulary, spelling, and grammar. Proper usage and mechanics are taught explicitly and are integrated into the writing process along with identification and use of literacy devices in writing.

Language arts literacy instruction includes reading skills and strategies as well as providing opportunities for students to comprehend, analyze, and synthesize textual information.

Students will increase their fluency in reading. Key to the instruction of reading across all grade levels is independent reading. Students have access to classroom libraries and media center books of various genres and reading levels; and teachers assist students in selecting books appropriate for their demonstrated ability. Students hone their inferential and comprehension skills as teachers implement a balance of instructional approaches, to include read-alouds, guided reading, modeling, reading notebooks, and author/genre study. Regular opportunities are provided for in-class reading, discussion, and writing about reading.

Mathematics

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) standards for middle level learners recognizes the need for all students living in the 21st century to master a solid foundation in mathematics. The sixth grade mathematics course will introduce students to the 6th grade **Connected**

Math program (CMP3), rich in algebraic and geometric concepts. This program will better prepare students with the foundations necessary to be successful at high school level mathematics. Making real-life connections with the mathematical content is a priority along with conceptual develop-

ment and independent thinking. A variety of activities are implemented using critical thinking, problem solving and technology. In addition to the core text, supplementary materials are used to further enhance and reinforce the skills and concepts taught including hands-on materials.

Science

Sixth grade students not only learn science, but experience it through hands-on activities. Students will explore an array of topics in grade six science. The science program strives to stimulate and foster student interest and excitement in a subject that has become the forefront through the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) initiative. Sixth grade students learn science through the use of hands-on activities, classroom labs

and science related computer applications. Science objectives are regularly integrated with other content areas. An interdisciplinary team approach is taken as to include Language Arts, mathematics and even social studies into the science objectives. Students are required to write reports and give oral presentations throughout the year. As part of the regular curriculum, students explore the impact science has on the world. This

class will be structured in a way that involves constant change. Students will complete multiple labs for each unit of study. At DEOMS each of our science labs are equipped with a digital projection camera and an interactive Smart Board. All students will have the opportunity to participate in a school-wide science fair to take place in the spring.

Social Studies

The social studies curriculum in grade six is organized into knowledge and skill objectives that engage the student through problem solving and writing. Many social studies activities are integrated with other curriculum areas including mathematics and Language Arts. Students in grade six social studies will trace the

emergence of the United States as a new nation and the establishment of our democracy. Students will explore the causes, events, influential figures and outcomes of the Civil War, through the period of Reconstruction. Students will also develop an understanding of the geographical and political issues of the fifty states,

and discuss local, national, and world current events and issues. Opportunities for cross-curricular connections will help students appreciate the impact of social studies on other disciplines. The enduring goal of the program is to provide students with an awareness of their past and help them make relevant applications to their daily lives.

Elective Courses

Sixth grade students may choose from two full periods of electives. They may choose a full year course and two half year courses, or four half year courses. One, half-year, selective course is Art. Students selecting art will explore different types of medium sparking a lifelong interest in art. They will have the opportunity to

experiment and refine skills using a variety of art media. Students may alternatively choose another half-year selective, students may choose another half year selective, Current Events. In this class, students will use the internet and other mediums to learn of global events and their impact. Technology helps bring the

students even closer to the people of the world. Students will receive a semester of world languages (French, Mandarin, or Spanish) This will continue in 7th-grade.

Physical Education/Health

The Physical Education program encourages students to develop physical skills, coordination, and fitness and teaches concepts related to health fitness enhancement. The goal of the physical education program is to provide students with a foundation for a lifetime of healthful pursuits. Students from sixth through eighth grade encounter a variety of units in order to experience a wide range of games, sports and activities that address fit-

ness needs, developmental processes, and personal interest.

Age-appropriate activities are designed to promote the psychomotor and affective development of students in team, individual, fitness and adventure-based learning. The emphasis is placed on basic skill development and organized games. Each unit strives to enhance personal wellness through the use of competitive, non-competitive and coopera-

tive group activities.

The health education curriculum addresses four major areas: wellness, integrated skills, drugs and medicines and human relations and sexuality. Each of these areas, identified by the New Jersey Core Content Standards, is addressed each year in developmentally appropriate succession. All students in grades 6-8 receive health education during one marking period.

Performing Arts

The Performing Arts program is designed to give students experience in performance as well as learn about and utilize different skills for the understanding and appreciation as music as an art form. There are three areas of focus including band, orchestra and chorus. The band and orchestra courses are **full year courses** and **replace two, half-year selective courses**. Students

may choose either band or orchestra to participate in a large group ensemble. This experience helps provide confidence and builds self-esteem in our young players as well as a sense of accomplishment when they perform in front of an audience. After school rehearsals are held once a week. Any student who is interested, may choose The chorus program. It meets five days

per week during the lunch period, and **does not interfere** with selective choices. Students learn about music notation and vocal production. Students will also learn to critique their own work and other performances. All students participating in the performing arts are expected to participate in two concerts per year.

Computer Applications

Computer Applications is a mandated **half year selective option** that **ALL** students must show proficiency in prior to being promoted from eighth grade. This course **may be taken** in *sixth or seventh* grade. This course is designed to emphasize internet safety and skills proficiency. Students

enrolled in this course will practice word processing, development of a spreadsheet and charts, introduction to data bases, graphics and creating a PowerPoint presentation. Students will be exposed to the key elements to internet safety, ethics and netiquette. This course will also explore

the use of online applications such as Google. Students in seventh and eighth grade may elect to take higher levels of computer classes including computer graphics, advanced computers and robotics.

Music of the World

In Music of the World class, 6th grade students embark on a dynamic and comprehensive musical journey that encompasses a rich blend of theory, culture, and history. The curriculum not only delves into fundamental music theory but also explores the diverse musical traditions of various cultures worldwide, fostering a deep appreciation for global musical heritage. Students engage in an exploration of music history, tracing the evolution of different genres and their societal impacts. Practical skills are honed as students learn to play a variety of instruments. Additionally, the class introduces the exciting realm of digital audio workstations, empowering students to experiment with modern technology in creating and producing their own musical compositions. This multifaceted approach ensures a well-rounded musical education, inspiring a lifelong passion for the universal language of music.

DAVID E. OWENS MIDDLE SCHOOL

470 Marion Avenue
New Milford, New Jersey 07646
201-265-8661 ext. 3000

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deo_knighthappenings

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David E. Owens Middle School offers a Gifted and Talented program for recommended students in grade six. This rigorous program is one semester and offers students both self-guided and teacher initiated opportunities. Students use higher-level thinking skills including critical thinking and reasoning. Throughout this course, students will develop research skills and methods while advancing their oral and written skills. Students will be encouraged to take risks and grow personally.